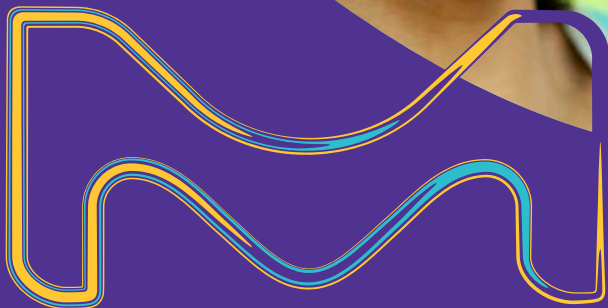




# Healthy women, Healthy economies

Private sector commitment to an initiative  
that links health and prosperity for women

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Government and Public Affairs  
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# Healthy women, Healthy Economies

Sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved if women, who consist of half the workforce, are unable to fully participate in the economy due to health implications.



**865**  
MILLION<sup>1</sup>

The number of women across the globe who are **not reaching their economic potential** due to preventable causes.



**\$28**  
TRILLION<sup>2</sup>

Estimated amount that would be **added to the annual global GDP by 2025** if women were to participate in the economy at the same level as men.

# Healthy women, Healthy Economies

Barriers to women's health and well-being impede their ability to join, thrive, and rise in their communities, and live better lives

65%<sup>1</sup>

**Non-communicable diseases** are the leading cause of death for women and account for an estimate 65 percent **of all female deaths worldwide.**

x6<sup>2</sup>

Women who have **caregiving responsibilities** are six times as likely to suffer from **depression or anxiety compared** to women without caregiving responsibilities.

x2-3<sup>3</sup>

**Multiple sclerosis** impacts two to three times **more women than men.**

x2<sup>6</sup>

Twice as many **women who have heart attacks die within one year,** compared to men.

2<sup>nd</sup><sup>5</sup>

**Cancer** is the second **leading cause of death among women.** **One in seven women** in the Americas, Europe and the Western Pacific regions **dies every year from cancer.**

x5-8<sup>4</sup>

**Thyroid diseases** impact five to eight times **more women than men.**

# HEALTHY WOMEN, HEALTHY ECONOMIES

**Healthy Women, Healthy Economies** is a global initiative that unleashes the economic power of women by bringing governments, employers and other interested stakeholders together to **improve women's health so women - and by extension their families - can join, thrive, rise in their communities, and live better lives.**

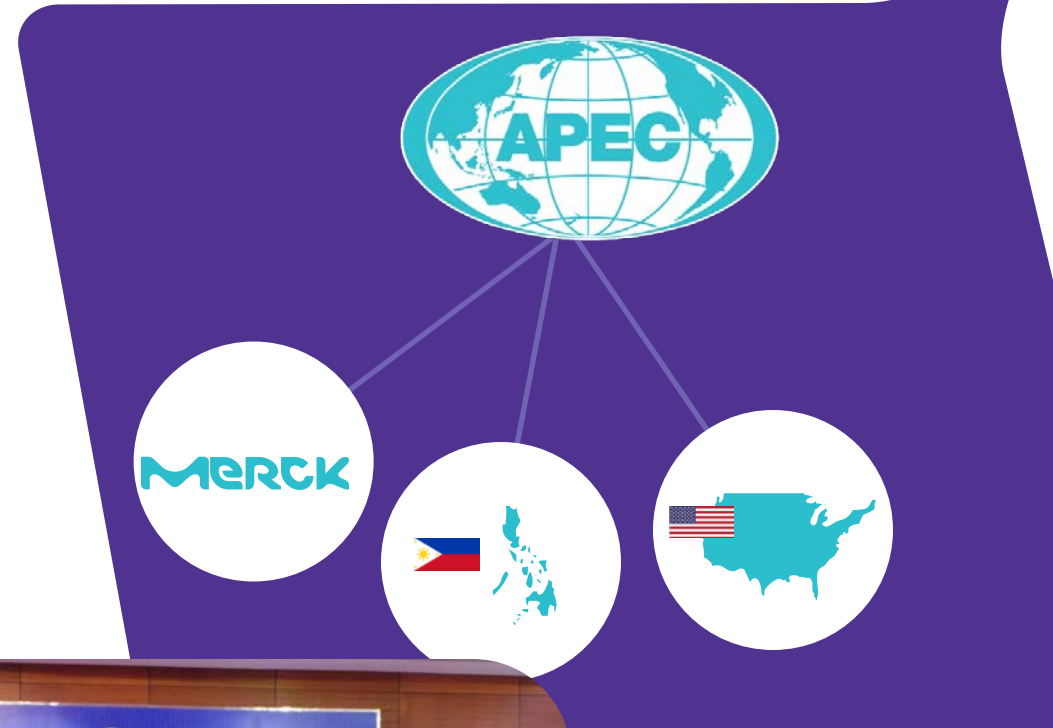




# Healthy Women, Healthy Economies

Established APEC 2014

- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany is the founding private sector partner collaborating with **21 APEC Economies**, led by the United States and the Philippines
- In August 2015, an Experts Group came together in Manila to form a **Policy Toolkit** informed by a **literature review**
- **Implementation workshops** held annually since 2015



# Healthy Women, Healthy Economies

## Identifying the five focus areas

August 2014 - Joint dialogue of the APEC Human Resources Development Working Group, Health Working Group, and the Policy Partnership on Women and the Economy in Beijing identified five areas of health barriers that prevent women's economic participation.

- Workplace health and safety
- Health access and awareness
- Reproductive health
- Gender violence and sexual harassment
- Work/life balance

# Healthy women, healthy economies

Barriers to women's sexual and reproductive health – results from the literature review

<sup>1</sup>  
**40%**

**Women in villages in Bangladesh** with access to a health outreach program that provided doorstep-delivery of health services including contraceptives, pre-natal care, vaccinations and safe delivery kits **reported monthly earnings 40% higher than those in comparison villages**

<sup>2</sup>  
**24-37%**

**Being a young mother in Chile** reduces girls' likelihood of attending and completing high school **by between 24 – 37%**.

<sup>3</sup>  
**12%**

Historic data has shown that young women in the US who could obtain access to the birth control pill were **12% more likely to attend college** compared with those who don't have access.

<sup>4</sup>  
Studies from the US have shown that the **narrowing of the gender gap in earning** is in part due to **women's ability to delay childbearing** and that highly educated women in high-paying jobs **experience the greatest benefit from delayed childbearing.**

# Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Toolkit Recommendations

## Enhancing Women's Economic Participation by Improving Health

### Improve access to sexual and reproductive health services

- Develop workplace policies that support women
- Develop policies and programs to improve access for the vulnerably employed
- Reduce financial barriers

### Increase awareness of services for voluntary family planning

- Develop comprehensive programs to increase use of services
- Develop broad-based health education programs
- Expand programs to nontraditional settings
- Educate beneficiaries about available health services

### Provide high-quality maternal, sexual, and reproductive health services

- Strengthen health care worker training
- Explore methods for accreditation and licensing for health care workers
- Strengthen standards, policies, and regulatory and legal frameworks
- Establish client satisfaction tools

### Protect against discrimination

- Assess the policy environments that protect women from discrimination
- Develop policies and implement training that supports nondiscrimination



# Healthy women, Healthy Economies

## Policy Toolkit and Literature Review

The Policy Toolkit is now available in five languages – English, Japanese, Traditional Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese. The Toolkit was supported by a literature review which compiled existing evidence on the linkage between the health of women and girls and their ability to enter, remain, and rise in the economy.

## Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

Helps decision-makers identify whether measures are having the intended impact. Indicators are for both private and public sector stakeholders.

## TOOLS and RESOURCES

<http://healthywomen.apec.org/>

<https://www.emdgroup.com/en/company/responsibility/our-strategy/health/hwhe.html>

## Economic and Business Cases

The economic and business cases were shared at the 2016 “Implementation Workshop: From Vision to Action” where data was shared to support governments and businesses to enhance women’s economic participation.

## Outcome Report and Case Studies

Annual outcome reports for workshops where HWHE case studies are discussed and organizations from across APEC come together to share best practices.

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt Germany  
sees the bigger picture of how health and  
prosperity are intertwined for women,  
and we are committed to doing our part

The **importance of family is firmly rooted within our 350-year-old history**, and our ongoing commitment to focusing on caring for patients and their families is part of our DNA. As a **provider of solutions for diseases that affect women disproportionately**, we are investing in initiatives to improve major aspects of women's health from awareness to education, access to healthcare, and government programs.

**We have a responsibility to do better.**

# Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany's Commitment to Healthy Women, Healthy Economies

We have adopted the mission of Healthy Women, Healthy Economies and are putting action behind our expanded commitment to the program by:



**Supporting research** to quantify the issue linking women's health and well-being to their economic prosperity



**Forming meaningful collaborations** to advocate for change.



**Living the mission** through our internal corporate commitments to bring Healthy Women, Healthy Economies to life for our employees

# Our Approach

We are focused on three key policy areas:

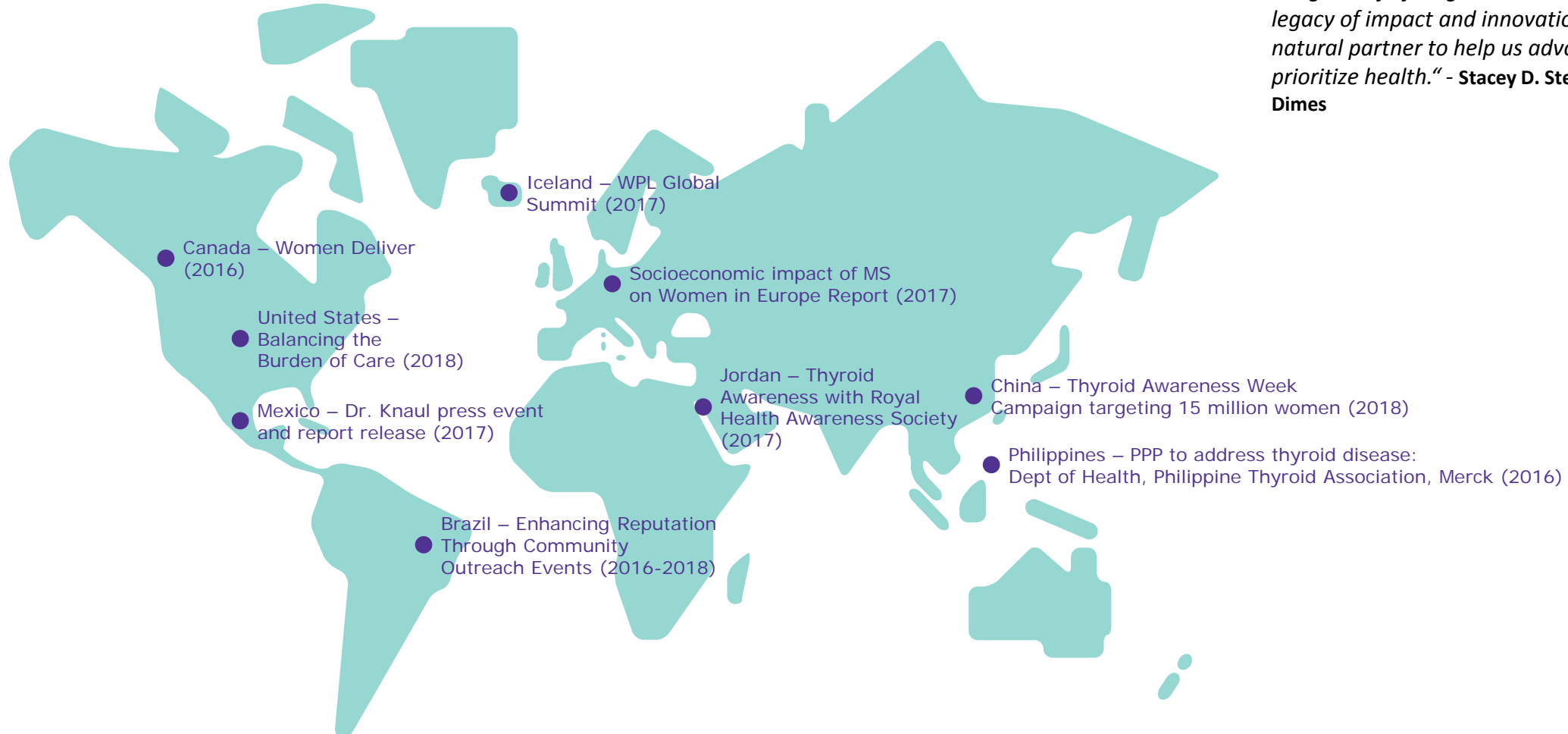
POLICY AREA		
<p><b>Health Access &amp; Awareness:</b> Tackle non-communicable and communicable diseases that disproportionately impact women and prevent them from participating and succeeding in the workforce.</p>	<p><b>Work/Life Integration:</b> Support women who work – both paid and unpaid work – and create supportive work environments and health systems that can help women achieve greater work-life integration and improve their overall health and well-being.</p>	<p><b>Empowerment &amp; Parity:</b> Work with public and private organizations to support creating equitable work environments where talented women and men can thrive and rise, without sacrificing their health.</p>
OUR BELIEFS		
<p><b>All women should have access to health solutions</b> and awareness of the options available to them to advance their health and well-being.</p>	<p>We must <b>reduce the severe detriments to women's health</b> associated with balancing family and workplace responsibilities.</p>	<p>We are <b>all responsible</b> for creating <b>equitable workplaces</b>.</p>

# Healthy Women, Healthy Economies

## Implementation around the world



*"It's crucial that we support mothers throughout every stage of their pregnancy and beyond," said Stacey D. Stewart, president of March of Dimes. "For 80 years, March of Dimes has helped millions of babies survive and thrive, and supporting mothers is integral to fulfilling our mission. As we build upon our legacy of impact and innovation, EMD Serono\* is a natural partner to help us advocate for policies that prioritize health."* - Stacey D. Stewart, President, March of Dimes







We are committed to  
**Healthy women,  
Healthy economies**

To unleash the economic  
power of women.